TV IMAGES

By Gannett News Service

"Racism, New Times, New Questions," hosted by newsman Ted Koppel, will be broadcast tonight at 8 from ABC stations in six cities.

Polls taken recently in the six cities — Boston, Dallas, Raleigh, St. Paul, Seattle and Washington, D.C. — by the Maryland-based Hamilton and Staff polling company indicate the tide of public opinion is turning against affirmative action in the hiring and promoting of blacks.

KOPPEL

The polls' 1,600 respondents said they oppose affirmative action, by a margin of 3-to-1. The adults answering the surveys were from a cross-section of each city's population, says the show's executive producer William Cosmas.

He is not sure the polls are indicative of widely held beliefs.

"What we're trying to investigate is whether a trend that seemed to be there in support of blacks has eroded," Cosmas says. "What we're struck most by is there is a great deal of prejudice in this country."

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When New Jersey Network's documentary "Battered Wives, Shattered Lives" aired in the Garden State in March, more than 1,200 viewers called a hotline for victims of domestic violence.

Network officials expect more of the same tomorrow night when the documentary is broadcast nationwide on the PBS Network. Viewers should check local listings for the time.

The documentary is narrated by actor Ed Asner and reported by Kent Manahan.

According to the documentary's national figures, wife-battering accounts for 40 percent of the serious injuries treated in hospital emergency rooms; at least 1.8 million women are battered every year; and battering is more common than muggings, auto accidents and rape combined.

The documentary offers no final solution, but said battering is a learned behavior that can be unlearned.

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Nearly 60 stars from TV shows past and present will get to be good sports this weekend and next.

They'll be filmed on the University of Southern California campus in Santa Barbara as they compete on a new syndicated celebrity sports show, "Star Games" — to begin airing around 75 percent of the United States beginning Sept. 23. The taping will be edited into 13 hour-long episodes.

Pamela Sue Martin and Bruce Jenner will be co-hosts, and Dick Butkus will play referee, umpire and occasional comic relief as nine teams pair off. Events include volleyball, track events, tug of war and swimming relays. The stars compete for more than $1 million in cash and prizes.

Among the shows represented by teams: "Falcon Crest"; "Too Close for Comfort"; "Still the Beaver"; "General Hospital"; "Roots"; "Dance Fever"; "The Love Boat," and "Three's a Crowd."

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Fans will have to tune in later to find out what soap operas and stars most stir the passions of the viewers.

More than 90,000 ballots have poured into the Boston office of the Coopers & Lybrand accounting firm, which is tabulating votes for Soap Opera Digest's stars and shows popularity contest.

The mail is being sorted, the votes tabulated and, on July 8, a computer will spit out the names of winners in the 2nd Annual Soap Opera Awards.

The winning producers, directors, actors and actresses will be honored later.

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NBC loves the summer. "The Cosby Show," "Miami Vice" and other reruns of popular NBC series led the network to another weekly ratings victory.

Backers of "Miami Vice" are especially joyful. For the week ending June 9, it scored its highest ranking (third) and highest rating since it premiered last fall. It's living up to predictions that it would gain fans once its regular-season competition, CBS's "Falcon Crest," stopped airing original episodes. (CBS has been pre-empting both "Dallas" and "Falcon Crest" for Friday night movies.)

More good news for NBC:

"Remington Steele," which may face tougher competition next fall from ABC's revamped Tuesday schedule, is evidently adding to its audience. It finished fourth.

The big loser so far is ABC, which didn't place a single show in last week's top 20.

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The first network-TV attempt to deal with AIDS will be on NBC, which already has run successful TV movies about missing children ("Adam") and battered women ("The Burning Bed").

NBC Entertainment president Brandon Tartikoff says the two-hour "An Early Frost" will be about a young man who discovers he has AIDS. Scheduled for late fall or early winter, the film will be told from the point of view of the AIDS victim's family.

Heidi Abromowitz ... Almost Live from Caesars Palace," will be shown on Showtime cable TV tonight at 9.

Rivers is rich, smart, attractive and wears designer clothes. So why does she continue on her shrill rampage of self-mockery? In the new show, Rivers spends most of the hour ridiculing her various body parts.

After Rivers' vulgarity about herself, jokes about the fictional, sexually insatiable Heidi Abromowitz are a welcome relief. It's nice to hear that Heidi, the town tramp, is still grabbing for the gusto, instead of sitting around complaining about her cellulite, which Rivers, her creator, does far too often.

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Former New York Jets quarterback Joe Namath soon may be a member of ABC's "Monday Night Football" team.

"We are in discussions with Joe's representative. I'm optimistic," Jim Spence, senior vice president of ABC Sports, said Thursday at the U.S. Open in Birmingham, Mich. "Things should be concluded by the end of month."

Namath would replace Don Meredith in ABC's booth. Frank Gifford and O.J. Simpson return.

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What will the new "Hell Town" TV series be like?

No one seems to know except Robert Blake, the star, producer, sometimes-writer, sometimes-everything else. And he's apparently not so sure himself.

So far, he said, NBC has given him free rein on the program, which is to involve a high-spirited priest working in a big-city slum. "The network attitude is, 'Leave the lunatic alone.'"

Blake makes no secret of his past troubles with drugs and his ongoing life as a "neurotic nut." He insists he's trying to learn to delegate authority — but admits he's doing most of the "Hell Town" work.

"Maybe — Lord willing — maybe this time I won't, but chances are ..." he said, pausing to grasp for words. "If I go crazy this time, I hope someone takes me out in a field and shoots me."

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CINEMA 9
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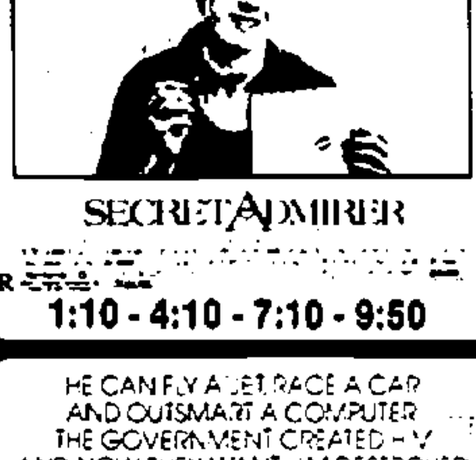
CODE OF SILENCE CHUCK NORRIS (R) 12:35 - 3:35 - 6:35 - 9:05
Harrison Ford Is John Book. WITNESS (R) 12:30 - 3:30 - 6:30 - 9:10
9 DEATHS OF THE NINJA (R) 12:40 3:40 6:40 9:00
He never knew what hit him.

SECRET ADMIRER (R) 1:10 - 4:10 - 7:10 - 9:50
You don't have to be crazy to blow 30 million dollars in 30 days. But it helps.
RICHARD PRYOR Brewster's MILLIONS An American excess story (PG) 12:40 - 3:40 - 6:40 - 9:20

Meet the only guy who changes his identity more often than his underwear.
CHEVY CHASE Fletch (PG) 12:50 - 3:50 - 6:50 - 9:10
PLUS - A MUSIC "ZAP" - "COUNTRY BOY"
HE CAN FLY A JET, RACE A CAR AND OUTSMART A COMPUTER THE GOVERNMENT CREATED HIM AND NOW THEY WANT HIM DESTROYED

D.A.R.Y.L. 1:05 - 4:05 - 7:05 - 9:40

STALLONE is back
RAMBO First Blood Part II (R)
No man, no law, no war can stop him.
1:00 - 4:00 - 7:00 - 9:30
PLUS - "KOOL THE GANG" IN A MUSIC "ZAP"
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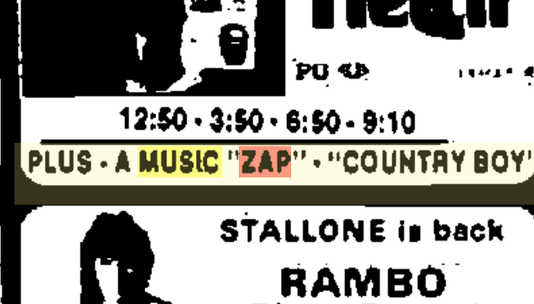
JACK NICHOLSON KATHLEEN TURNER PRIZZI'S HONOR (R)
12:30 - 3:30 - 6:30 - 9:35
PLUS - A MUSIC "ZAP" - BABE, "SMOOTH OPERATOR"
SOON - "THE BLACK CAULDRON" SOON - "RETURN TO OZ"
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